

*Coleus rotundifolius* (Menthaceae), 54321. From Mount Silinda, Southern Rhodesia. Tubers presented by Mr. W. L. Thompson. "Tubers which serve as food for the natives of this district, and of which we often partake. The native name is 'Zwidata.' The tubers may be described as a substitute for Irish potatoes. We find that they are excellent prepared in the same way as creamed potatoes. They are not very mealy but could scarcely be called watery. If they could be induced to grow to a larger size, with increase rather than decrease of other good qualities, they might be very useful. I think they are quite prolific yielders. They require quite a long season to mature and I presume that, if these reach you in condition to grow, it would be necessary to start them in a greenhouse. The tubers send out sprouts much as do sweet potatoes." (Thompson.)

*Dioscorea esculenta* (Dioscoreaceae), 54309. Yam. From Suva, Fiji Islands. Tubers presented by Mr. C. H. Knowles, Director of Agriculture. "A smooth-skinned, white-fleshed yam, - somewhat moist when cooked, but of good flavor." (R. A. Young.)

This small yam, the 'Kawai,' is certainly worth the attention of anyone who has facilities for cultivating a small area of food plants. Since it is indigenous to Fiji, the natives have long recognized its value as a food, and it is cultivated in most if not all of the Fiji Islands. It is cultivated in parts of India and Burma. In the latter it is said to be found wild.

The stem of this creeper is round and full of prickles. It is propagated by planting the small tubers or roots, which, like the old ones, are oblong, of brownish color outside and a pure white within. When cooked, the skin falls off like the bark of a birch tree. The root is very farinaceous, and when well cooked looks like fine mealy potato, although of superior whiteness. The taste recalls that of the Aracacha of South America. There is a slight degree of sweetness about it which is very agreeable to the palate.

The 'Kawai' can be grown in districts too wet for the finer varieties of the yam and it is not attacked by the leaf fungus *Gloeosporium pestis* which attacks yams, particularly the better varieties, and is very severe in wet years. Good land is necessary for a good crop, and it must be well drained.